



# DE News

**February 1, 2002 – Iowa Department of Education – Ted Stilwill, Director**

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## **Budget concerns continue to dominate**

Governor Vilsack reported today that January receipts ended lower than expected, as did December. Year-to-date revenue stands at negative point six percent (-.6%), compared to the official projection of 1.5% growth. Each 1% equals \$48 million.

As such, further budget reductions for this fiscal year are a very real possibility. No determination has been made at this point regarding the scope or depth of actual reductions. However, realizing that we have just a few months left to absorb any reductions, the Governor has directed all state agencies to halt all discretionary spending, and has implemented a hiring freeze, effective immediately and continuing through the end of the fiscal year, June 30. These cost-cutting measures include spending for equipment, furniture, supplies and vehicles; sole source contracts, delaying leases or moves; and energy conservation.

Our declining revenue also raises questions about funding levels for education. While the Governor recommended increases for K-12, community colleges and some Regents funding, the Legislature will need to consider those recommendations in the new light of further decreasing revenues.

With all the emphasis on funding and the pressures to look for alternatives as funding levels decline, there is more conversation about the finance formula for K-12. We plan to distribute information next week to simplify the complexities and respond to questions we've received from the field.

## **Legislative notes**

- HF 2151, School Emergency Plans: Allows districts to exempt certain provisions of its emergency plan from public view if disclosure of those provisions would endanger students and others.
- SF 2006, Special Education Count Date: Changes the special education count date from the final Friday in October to Dec. 1.
- Formerly HF 2184, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) Changes: Lowers the minimum purchase requirement for a single unit of equipment from \$1,500 to \$500.

## **Helpful Web sites**

- Chapter 12 Accreditation standards:  
<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Rules/2002/iac/gnac/gnac939/gna940.pdf>
- Draft model criteria for Iowa Teaching Standards:  
<http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/tqt/tc/standards.html>
- 2001-02 Teacher Compensation allocations:  
<http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/tqt/tc/allocations.html>
- Available grant applications and allocations: <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/grants/index.html>

- Calendar of events and meetings: <http://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/calendars.asp>
- AEA critical filing dates: <http://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/calendars.asp?c=bftaea0>
- LEA critical filing dates: <http://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/calendars.asp?c=bftlea0>

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***Iowa Department of Education Mission:  
“Helping communities meet the learning needs of all of their children and adults”***

*DE News* provides timely information about legislative and policy issues, grants and funding, trends in education, and other items of immediate interest to Iowa educators and policymakers. Contact Kathi Slaughter, 515/281-5651; fax 515/281-4122; email [kathi.slaughter@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:kathi.slaughter@ed.state.ia.us).